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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

DATE: 25X1A6a

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Correspondence between Vladko Macek and August Kosutic

DIST. 5 June 1947

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT

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EVALUATION OF SOURCE

EVALUATION OF CONTENT

1. Dr. Vladko Macek recently succeeded in establishing his first contact with Dr. August Kosutic, one of the vice-presidents of the Croatian Peasant Party and son-in-law of Stjepan Radic, through P. Ljubic, a member of the Croatian Peasant Party working in an industrial mill in Yugoslavia which affords him the opportunity of making occasional visits to Prague where an exchange of communication is affected.
2. The following is a summary of Ljubic's conversations with Kosutic as reported in the former's letter to Macek 11 May: 25X1A6a

Kosutic had no talks or political negotiations with any of Tito's representatives since his arrest in September 1944. He describes reports in "Observed" [REDACTED] Comment: Presumably Sunday Observer as absolutely false. Ivan Subasic and Jurač Sutej have declared loyalty to the Croatian Peasant Party leadership, but former's loyalty as yet has not yet been proven. He does not consider Dragoljub Jovanović serious. Kosutic also does not believe that the Crusaders (Krizari) should be considered as members of the Croatian Peasant Party since it is impossible to reach any results by means of such an opposition. Nonetheless, he characterizes the resistance of the people and the will towards active opposition as very great and urgently requests Macek's advice and views on desired action. Kosutic and his friends did not hear the broadcasts from the Croat station in Italy, but urge that Croat leaders abroad establish a station similar to that of the Chetnik stations now functioning. Kosutic believes that current international conditions require a new party line following the Stjepan Radic program of cooperation with the Russians of 1924. Believes that the Croatian Peasant Party should send young emissaries to all allies, particularly Russia, in hopes of obtaining concessions directed towards achieving a Czechoslovak type of democracy. He does not believe that there is any other possibility of obtaining an actual change of policy at present. In this connection, he has given such instructions to Croatian Peasant Party deputies, but the latter are too fearful or too passive to follow through. Though relations with the Serbs and Slovene opposition elements are relatively good no definitive program has been agreed upon and the general disposition of the Croat people still favors the principle of Croat independence. Kosutic then requests what the reasons were for Macek's decision to go to the United States. He believes that collaboration of all the Croats abroad should be accepted excluding only war criminals guilty of bloodshed. Kosutic reports that there has been a

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sharp increase of church influence and dignity since the Stepinac trial. Deputies Baburic and Martincic were arrested a month ago. President Truman's speech resulted in a sharp rise of the people's morale and stimulated open criticism of the regime which in turn provoked a new wave of arrests numbering several hundred in Zagreb alone. He repeats the urgent necessity of propaganda broadcasts including instructions and messages.

3. The following is a brief summary of Macek's reply to Kosutic's letter:

Macek stated that he never considered the Crusaders as members of the Croatian Peasant Party, but does not believe their tendencies in this direction should be discouraged and believes that the major resistance effort should be based on old party tactics of passive refusal to participate in public life. The major hope for ultimate change lies abroad especially in view of the recent developments of American foreign policy. Macek disapproves of Kosutic's proposal to pursue the Radic policy of 1924 on grounds that Communists do not sincerely desire cooperation but simply stooges. He cites his own experience in Paris two years ago when the Russian Ambassador refused to receive him. Macek then stresses the falsity of the impression inside the country that he favors an independent Croatia describing this end as impossible and unrealizable. States conviction Western Powers desire Yugoslav entity and that his personal impression is that the Serbs are ready to form a confederation. In reply to Kosutic's request of Macek's reasons for going to the United States Macek stated that it was his conviction that the key to the Yugoslav problem lies in American policy, and the importance of convincing the United States that the only possible strong competitor to communist ideology in Eastern Europe lies in the peasant parties. He mentions his efforts to unite all peasant party opposition movements from the Baltic to the Aegean despite technical difficulties. Macek also states that broadcasts from Italy were suspended owing to lack of funds, but hopes that such broadcasts may be resumed if funds are provided for. Describes policy toward the Ustashi as being personally sympathetic and helpful to enable migrants who are not guilty of bloodshed, but does not stress impossibility of political collaboration with such elements because of their fanatic adherence to principle of an independent Croatia and their bitter hatred of the Serbs.

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